

SAFE HAVEN FOR DONKEYS
IN THE HOLY LAND



SUMMER 2003

An Enchanted Summer!

Lucy's letter from Israel

Another warm hello from the enchanted donkey world of SHADH! I use the word "enchanted" in an effort to describe a most remarkable phenomenon which I experience in my work with our donkeys here at Safe Haven.

For this newsletter this extraordinary thing that I would like to share with you is the amazing transformation that happens when new donkeys arrive at the sanctuary. Strangely, it is particularly obvious with the donkeys who have suffered the most, but I will tell you a little more about that later!

Since I last wrote in the spring telling you that we had 53 donkeys - another 11 donkeys have come into my care bringing our family to a total of 64! You may recall that I thought three of our female donkeys, Celia, Lily and Lila were about to give birth - well, they did!

Very tragically Celia's little foal, after surviving an extremely difficult birth, died the following day. Celia showed no signs of missing her foal and even seemed to understand and accept it.

Shortly after that Lila gave birth to beautiful "Dolly" and two weeks later Lily brought



HELLO DOLLY! Lucy with one of the new arrivals

the gorgeous "Blossom" into the world... All mummies and babies are doing very well and, naturally, the two little girl donkeys manage to get up to all sorts of mischief!

Since May I have received numerous phone calls requesting my help to rescue donkeys in distress. The first of which was to help a poor donkey in a Palestinian city, Qalqilya, who seemed to have been hit by a vehicle and was thought to have a fractured front leg.

We brought him home and our vet x-rayed the limb and put it in a cast but Archie, as I named him, really couldn't manage and after two weeks of him constantly lying down, we had to take the decision to put him down.

Literally a week later, another very similar looking

donkey came into our care, Archie 2. He had a horrendous injury to his back leg, the lower half had been cut away from the upper leg and was hanging on by a thread of skin.

We do not know how the injury had occurred but he had obviously had the terrible open wound for at least a week before we were called to help. Although we did all that was possible to help Archie 2, he had sadly contracted the tetanus disease and within two days of coming into our care he suddenly became so ill that we had to put him out of his misery.

Two days later I was called to rescue a young, black male donkey who had been found abandoned by a highway by the municipality of Herzliya - I named him "Oscar". At first he went in with the Bad Boys and it was difficult to tell him and Gerry

apart as they look very similar! He soon turned into a good boy and is now living happily next door to the Bad Boys with the ladies, babies and good boys!

Throughout June more phone calls came through! One was to rescue little Bombie, a very young male donkey with an injury similar to that of Archie 2.

Bombie was luckily found by a kind lady who drove him to a small animal clinic in Jerusalem run by a veterinary friend of mine, Hagai Almagor. Hagai treated the wound and gave baby Bombie antibiotics so by the time he came to Safe Haven he'd already been given medical care and had a good chance of survival. He is indeed thriving!

Next came dear, dear old "Shrek"! (some of you have probably seen the animated film).

Shrek really does resemble the donkey character in the film - although somewhat less active I'd say! He's an old boy who had belonged to a school for children with problematic behaviour but they decided they could no longer look after him - thankfully for Shrek, they called us!

Monty came next - another handsome male donkey rescued from a crowd of boys! Monty was tied to a tree all day without water and food until the boys arrived home after school when they rode him, beat

him and generally had their fun until they became bored... His life continued like this day after day until a lady called me and asked us to help him. Monty is with the Bad Boys gang now and he is a very beautiful donkey. Although much darker in colour he actually resembles Clyde - they both have the same really furry ears!

Tessa followed soon after Monty - I was told about her through a cat rescue friend of mine. He lives on the border with a Palestinian town and Tessa was just across that border. She was treated terribly and we turned up very late at night in order to rescue her with help from the Israeli border patrol police.

Once she was safely back at Safe Haven we saw that her whole body was covered in wounds with patches of skin hanging off and she was painfully thin. We treated her wounds and put her on a special diet and now, though still timid, she is looking much healthier!

Next to enter our lives was Mr Bo Jangles... another extraordinary story! He is such a dear but noisy boy who has visibly suffered deeply. I named him Bo Jangles because he had what we thought was a dislocated hip, the joint was out of the socket, so when he walked he almost looked as though he was dancing...

The vet has confirmed that it is in fact an old injury and because he manages so

competently we should leave him be. We were called to rescue him from an Arab village called "Faradis". A kind Arab gentleman had noticed him earlier in the day and watched as each time the donkey made it across a busy highway a crowd of men and youths were waiting to beat him until he turned back into the main road. He had no choice but to risk his life crossing backwards and forwards. The man had tried to call local authorities and vets but not a soul was interested.

Eventually we were alerted and we went immediately to bring him home to Safe Haven. Bo Jangles is such a noble-looking creature, so gallant, like a wounded hero! His whole body, from his lower legs to his face and eyes, is covered in livid scars.

Yet for all his terrible suffering he is another one who has shown me that

Continued overleaf



HANDSOME: Rescuer Monty

miracles *do* happen!

In fact his confidence and his insistence upon shouting about his wonderful new life is causing us a few problems! He shouts out in the middle of the night and wakes some of the other donkeys who join in the chorus... The sound of at least twenty donks ee-oring is none too pleasant for some folk! I, of course, don't mind it at all and manage to go straight back to sleep usually tired after an exhausting day...

Yet, whilst I am here to physically provide the donkeys' everyday needs and oversee the smooth running of the sanctuary, who really is responsible for having created this wonderful, enchanted world for our donkeys? *You*, our supporters are...

Having personally experienced what I would never have dreamed possible even two years ago,



SUMMER DAYS: Local helper Eliran makes a friend for life!

makes my devotion and commitment more determined in realising the absolute necessity of continuing this work.

The sad truth, as you know, is that in order to continue this safe and enchanted haven for donkeys and in order to educate people to change their attitudes, it all comes down to a matter of pounds and pence, dollars and cents - they are always desperately needed. More I cannot say, but what I do say comes

from my heart.

As always, my sincerest thanks go out to you all, especially for having made it possible so far, for me to rescue and take in 64 donkeys - I know they would all be ee-oring in unison with this if they could...

Thank you and God Bless.

Lucy Fensom

“Ground Force” help needed...

For most of last winter, the land surrounding the main shelters at the sanctuary was flooded, or on the rare occasions that the rain stopped, the area turned to a muddy quagmire which made *extremely* difficult working conditions and was

unpleasant for the donkeys.

Land levelling, proper drainage and concrete standing areas are desperately needed before the rains start again this November.

Can anyone help us with this work? Do you work for a civil engineering company who could sponsor this project? If you do or know of



anyone who might be able to help, please contact us either by e-mail, or at the PO Box address - details on the back page.

Thank you.

Nice weather for Donkeys!

SHADH was blessed with a beautiful sunny day for our first ever fundraising Donkey Day on 19th July.

Lucy's parents, Bella & Michael Fensom very kindly opened their gardens to family and friends of SHADH. Tea and cakes or Pimms and canapés were provided for £1.50 to help raise some funds.

Hove councillor Mr Peltzer-Dunn, was invited to draw the raffle and an amusing time was had by all with the 'Pin the Tail on the Donkey' (Many thanks go to Thomas Hopkinson & Taha Uheba from Tavistock & Summerhill School, Sussex for producing superb posters!!)

Lucy was also on hand to meet supporters and read out the winning tickets.



DONKEY DAY 2003: Holding the banner, from left to right: little Jake, Lucy's mother Bella, Lucy Fensom, local Councillor Mr. Peltzer-Dunn and Saskia

With over 9,000 entries the winners were:

- *1st Prize of a Weekend Trip to Israel - Ms K Stoner*
- *2nd Prize of £250.00 - Mrs C Harmer*
- *3rd Prize of £100.00 - Mrs L Savill*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who bought tickets or sold them to friends and family.

We hope to hold similar draws in the future, so if you are keen to be involved, please contact Felicity Moore.

Special Recognition

Our volunteer fundraisers spend so much of their free time working on behalf of SHADH, collecting items for sales, baking cakes, making posters, researching events, and special thanks should undoubtedly go to Janet Kingmill and Iris Pover of Shoreham-By-Sea, Sussex.

Janet and Iris also do voluntary work for other charities, as well as their own jobs and have even found time to commission a superb 6ft banner to be used for all future SHADH events.

We cannot thank them enough for their dedication and commitment to our cause. On behalf of all of us

and especially Lucy and her Donks... *Well Done!!!*



Lucy's donkeys: ROSA

This issue's donkey profile features gentle "Rosa"

Dear gentle old lady Rosa....I decided to choose her for this newsletter's donkey profile because she's now been with me for 2 years!

I was called to take her from an elderly couple living on a farm back in July 2001.

They told me that she had been quite roughly treated and overworked by a previous owner and that they had taken her in when the owner had died. However, the time had come that they no longer wanted to keep her and so they had called SHADH.

When I first brought Rosa to Safe Haven (that was in

the early days at the kibbutz) I remember that we had to be careful because she sometimes kicked out at us!

Now those days are long forgotten for Rosa and although partially blind, she's so confident and contented here at the sanctuary. When she senses that we're near her, she follows us around whilst we do the daily chores!



CONFIDENT AND CONTENTED: Rosa

May she have many more happy years with us here at her Safe Haven...

You can adopt Rosa using the adoption form on our website: www.safehaven4donkeys.org



Since we receive so many photographs of donkeys we thought it might be fun to hold a photograph competition! Entries cost

Say "carrots"!

£10 and each category winner will receive a rosette and have their picture framed. The best overall photograph will be made into a greetings card as part of next year's merchandise range.

1. *Most photogenic donkey*
2. *Best humorous photograph of a donkey*
3. *Me & a donkey*

Please send your photo, marked with the category on the back, your £10 donation, details of your name, address and supporter number if you have one to the PO Box address on the back page. All entries to be received by 1st November 2003, and please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your entry returned to you!

SHADH Report: Israel, July 2003

Lucy Fensom tells of a daring rescue from Jisr Azarka

You may remember the town of Jisr Azarka, where Molly, Muffin, Lily and Lila were found.

Last time I visited Jisr was quite some time ago when I handed out a few of my SHADH cards telling people that if they came across a donkey in need then they only had to call.

So, it seemed a miracle in itself when I received a call from a man in Jisr saying that he had two donkeys whom he could no longer care for and wondered whether I would take them from him.

The following day when we arrived in Jisr the man led us to one donkey, a male named Solomon. He said that the other donkey, a female now named Sheba, had run off! Knowing of the bond between donkeys I did not want to leave with only Solomon, leaving Sheba alone.

The man insisted that I just take the one and I moved towards Solomon to untether



An Apache helicopter gunship as used by the Israeli military

him. Even as the owner approached I watched sadly as the donkey's whole little body covered and he tucked his tail firmly between his legs as if that would afford him some degree of protection - he was clearly terrified...

I told the man that I insisted on searching for the donkey's companion and just as we were loading Solomon into our trailer a group of men started shouting that they'd found her! Off they went in pursuit when suddenly I heard a lot of commotion. We had already attracted rather an unfriendly-looking crowd and as I looked up I saw two Israeli Apache fighter helicopters, so close that we literally could have reached out and touched them! The first thing that comes to mind in such circumstances is that these helicopters are only used to hit their target at *close range*...

They were still hovering overhead when the group of men appeared with *two* more donkeys. One man was holding a thick, solid, wooden bar to repeatedly beat Sheba whilst her son, Benjy, struggled along by her side. Benjy's poor mouth was badly wounded causing severe swelling across the left



ABANDONED: Another lonely young donkey scavenges for food amongst the rubbish

side of his face. Naturally I tried to stop the beatings and find out what had happened to Benjy, but the men just laughed.

Our trailer can only carry two donkeys but this was an emergency - all that mattered was to get all three donks and ourselves out of there as quickly as possible. It was during our journey home that we heard on the news that suspected terrorists were being harboured in Jisr Azarka...

When we finally reached home and began to unload the donkeys, Solomon's immediate, amazing transformation almost moved me to tears. I'd last seen him cowering pathetically having known only pain and suffering and yet here was this confident donkey, his whole body language had changed, the way he carried

himself and looked around.

I'm sure I saw him smiling! He knew he'd come home to "donkey paradise". I whispered to him and decided, not for the first time, that our sanctuary definitely has a magical aura that the donkeys sense the moment they set hoof on our land! Perhaps they feel it from the other donkeys, but there's definitely *something* and I can't describe how much it means to see those dear animals who have suffered so much suddenly seem so contented and at peace.

Even now when I walk up to Solomon he doesn't cower as he did that day and you can see by his smiling face how much he enjoys having his neck and ears rubbed!

Sheba and Benjy have settled in beautifully too and the change in their behaviour was so remarkable...

Our new patron

We are delighted to announce that The RT. Hon. Ann Widdecombe M.P. has kindly agreed to become a patron of SHADH.

This comes about after one of our supporters, Ruth Sanderson wrote to Miss Widdecombe back in November last year.

Says Miss Widdecombe:
"Animals are so often the forgotten victims in human conflict and in those areas of the world where they are ill-used as working beasts.

No one will ever forget the case of the British air-hostess who brought a donkey back from Israel not only because she was sorry for him but because she wanted to draw attention to the plight of so many other donkeys.



A WARM WELCOME: The Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe M.P. pictured in her offices at the House of Commons

For most of us exercising compassion for these creatures means making the odd donation but there are a few people who will do so much more than that and will give the practical aid and assistance necessary.

That is why I support the Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy land."

You can find out more about Ann, her work and her life by visiting her website at the address below:

www.annwiddecombemp.com

In Conversation



Lesley Joseph

Actress Lesley Joseph invited Lucy to her home recently to find out more about how Lucy founded SHADH, what her motivations are and what her life is like working in such a volatile part of the world.

Miss Joseph first met Lucy last year at the IFAW Animal Action awards when she presented Lucy with her

award for outstanding contribution to animals abroad.

This delightful conversation is available on CD for only £9.99 with all profits going to SHADH.

Please see the enclosed merchandise catalogue (in the centre of this newsletter) for more details of this and other items.

A 'wheel' effort!

Fancy cycling 70 miles a day for 8 days to raise money for charity? Well that's what 60 year old Ken Geggus asked Steve Owen (47).

Ken, a very keen cyclist suggested doing this 560 mile trip and his wife Jan - an avid SHADH supporter - said why not do it for the donkeys?!

Steve joined Ken for the gruelling 8 days to Bordeaux then Ken carried on alone a further 160 miles back home to Tournecoupe.

So far their trip has raised a staggering £1020 for SHADH, a brilliant fund-raising effort.



NOT FAR NOW, KEN!: Ken Geggus, pictured during his Mont St Michel to Bordeaux cycle challenge

Ken has caught the bug and says he might attempt John O'Groats to Land's End next time!

We would like to thank Ken, Steve, Jan and all their friends and family who sponsored them. Well done!

Passport to Peace - update

Since our appeal earlier this year to re-home some of the Safe Haven donkeys we have had very positive responses from the UK, the USA and Europe.

We are still looking into

the feasibility of transporting donkeys from Israel to be re-homed in other countries and are in contact with all the families who have offered life-long homes.

This project is still very

much alive and provided that the costs and logistics are workable we still hope to realise this dream.

We will keep you up to date with any more progress in future SHADH newsletters.

Cartoon by Alex Hallatt, reproduced courtesy Brighton Evening Argus



Gift Aid - How you can help

A guide to making your donation go even further

More and more people are aware that charities can claim an additional 22% on individual donations through the Gift Aid scheme.

Over the past 2 years, Safe Haven for Donkeys has claimed £17,000 from the Gift Aid scheme which has made an *enormous* difference to the charity.

That's £17,000 extra just from supporters signing the Gift Aid declaration!

We want to encourage everyone who is eligible to please sign the enclosed Gift Aid declaration form which allows us to claim tax back retrospectively to 6th April 2000.

Even if you have already signed a Gift Aid declaration form for us before, please sign it again so that we can claim any donations right back to April 2000.

Professionals Wanted!

Are you an event organiser, do you run an art gallery or work in a stately home? Or are you a solicitor, veterinarian or work for a transport company? Could your profession or company help SHADH in any way?

We are looking for professionals willing to collaborate with us on larger projects and events.

If you think you could offer your professional services (whatever they might be!) then please get in touch with us via e-mail or the PO Box address - details on the back page.

Am I eligible?

To be eligible to sign the Gift Aid declaration you must pay at least as much tax as the charity will reclaim on your gifts in the tax year in which you make the donation (tax credits on dividend income will count towards the tax paid).

The tax year runs from 6 April in one year to 5 April in the next.

I'm a pensioner, can I sign the declaration too?

Yes, as long as you pay an amount of tax at least as much as the tax the charity will reclaim. That tax can be income tax or capital gains tax at any rate.

Even if you only pay the 10% starting rate, that tax can cover the tax the charity reclaims on your gift.

What about tax deducted from my savings?

If tax is deducted from the bank or building society interest you receive, you can use that to cover the tax on the gift, provided you have not reclaimed it.

Can I claim Gift Aid on sponsored events?

Yes providing each sponsor has signed a Gift Aid declaration the charity can recover the tax on the amounts covered by declarations. Ask the charity for sponsorship forms for this.

Does a gift I make jointly with someone else qualify for Gift Aid?

Yes, but you must tell the charity how much is from each of you. You will both need to sign declarations if the whole amount is to qualify.



THE BEST MEDICINE: Chico and SHADH worker Tzachi share a little joke

Thank You

A special thanks to the children of Weizmann Day School in Los Angeles, Tavistock & Summerhill School in Sussex, Saskia Moore, Isabella Hayward Hadley and Matilda Weston for sending us their beautiful drawings of donkeys that we have had made into T-towels to help raise more funds for SHADH.

Also, we were very lucky to attract the interest of photographer Mark Taylor, who has now visited the sanctuary in Israel several times and has taken the most beautiful pictures.

He also accompanied Lucy into Gaza and documented the scenes they witnessed there.

Mark has very kindly donated his images to us many of which are available in our 2004 calendar. For further details, see the merchandise catalogue in this newsletter.

Congratulations...

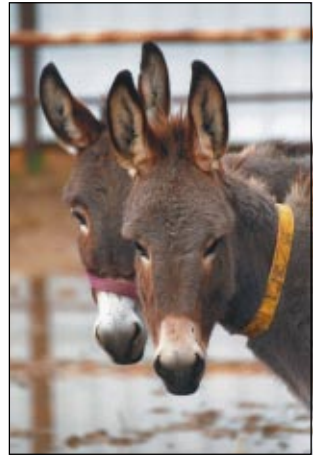
...go to Jan Wallace of Solihull, West Midlands for winning last issue's caption competition. Jan thought that Charlie Brown and George (pictured right) might have been whispering **"Right... the polos are in her back pocket..!"** A bottle of champagne is on it's way to you as you read

Another mention must go to the people who answered our appeal for volunteers to help out at the sanctuary in Israel. Fred Martindale, Sarah Traylor, Laura Sayer, Claire Wallerstein and Patricia Heydon-Burke have all offered their time and help and we look forward to welcoming them on board over the next few months.

Calling all knitters! Knitted donkeys sell and that's official! We would love to receive knitted donkeys of any shape, size and colour to sell at fundraising events or if you have a knitting pattern to share, why not send it in to us!

Finally, can we *please* ask you to keep a note of your supporter number and quote it on any correspondence to us - this helps us to ensure we do not duplicate your details. This number can be found in the address box on the donation/information form. Many thanks!

this - well done!
And thanks to *everyone* who entered our competition!



FAMILY PORTRAIT: Lizzie (front) and her mother, Heather

Box of Delight

Lucy wishes to extend sincerest thanks to the person who sent a box of goodies a while back.

Unfortunately there were no sender details on the box but she would like that person to know that the contents were so greatly appreciated!

As well as much needed headcollars including a leather one in a bag marked "oiled" there was a precious packet of "Animalintex" which we are always so desperate for at the sanctuary.

So thank you and if anyone out there has a packet of Animalintex to spare we would be very grateful if you could send it to us..!

Your Letters

Dear Felicity,

I am pleased to be able to send you a cheque for £236.72 being the proceeds of the plant sale on May 18th (pictured, right). Everyone from D.A.F.T (Devoted to Animals Fundraising Team!) joins me in wishing you good luck for the future and if you ever come to Plymouth, do contact us, we're completely mental, but quite harmless!

From all of us, we hope everything is going well with the donkeys.

Yours sincerely,

JOAN CAVE
Plymouth



DAFT ABOUT DONKEYS! Joan Cave's plant sale

Dear SHADH,

I am enclosing my cheque for £10 plus ticket stubs for the Donkey Day draw. I should also like to add that my husband, Steve (who wrote the poem "LUCY") has put together a booklet of his poems. A friend has been busy selling these jointly in aid of SHADH & Children's Hospice South West; to date we have raised £129! We shall let you have half of the total amount when all the booklets have been sold.

Regards,

OLGA CANNAN
Devon

Dear Mrs Moore,

Thank you for your lovely newsy letters and for the good work you all do for Lucy and her beloved donkeys. Our donkeys too! I cannot tell you how much your work is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

NANCY HAUBNER
Ruislip

Dear SHADH,

Please find enclosed cheque for £15 from my "Donkey Box" that hangs outside. Would you kindly write a reply to this as all the other elderly tenants drop their small change into it. Many thanks.

MRS BOWERS
Essex

Dear Mrs Moore,

Recently I celebrated a special birthday and when friends asked what I would like for a present I asked for donations to SHADH as you are doing such necessary work in awful conditions so I have pleasure in enclosing £70 in respect of my 60th Birthday.

Yours sincerely,

MISS M.P. SMITH
Mitcham

Dear SHADH,

I am regularly brought to tears when I read and re-read your newsletters, amazed at the constant abuse of these gentle creatures. Your work is invaluable, and your brave and passionate approach is second to none.

I have recently been awarded money due to being underpaid for my work. I felt that the donks deserved a cut of this as, if any work force is underpaid, unfairly treated and deserves recompense, it is them. Please accept £100 enclosed.

Kind regards,

JANE KILGOUR
Bedford



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Charity No. 1083468